

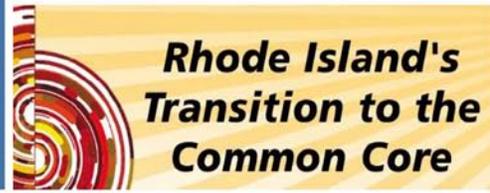


The Rhode Island Department of
Elementary and Secondary Education



Quarterly Updates

April 2012



Professional Development

In March, RIDE hosted a webinar to discuss professional development planning related to our new initiatives on interim assessments, formative assessments, data use, the Instructional Management System, and other topics. In order to begin scheduling the professional development opportunities, RIDE requested that each LEA complete a survey indicating their intended plans for these new initiatives. We will communicate results of this survey and more detailed plans for professional development as soon as possible.

CASe Study

In an effort to highlight successes and encourage learning from each other, RIDE has developed a CASe Study to show how one district has approached the work of developing and refining their Comprehensive Assessment System. In a presentation to the Coventry School Committee in January 2012, Assistant Superintendent Jim Erinakes and Professional Development Coordinator Amy Anzalone describe the process of developing their elementary assessment system and many of its key features. Video and summary can be found on the CAS webpage: www.ride.ri.gov/assessment/CAS.aspx.

CAS Webinar Series

RIDE is hosting a series of webinars on developing and refining your comprehensive assessment system and other topics related to assessment.

Archived webinars:

<i>September</i>	Defining a CAS and how it supports other RTTT initiatives
<i>October</i>	All things NECAP
	CAS & Student Learning Objectives
	Taking Inventory Using the Assessment Maps
<i>November</i>	Follow up on Assessment Maps & Next Steps
<i>December</i>	Validity & Reliability
<i>January</i>	Cultural and Linguistic Demands of Assessment

February	Interpreting Data
March	RTI & Data-based Decision Making

Upcoming webinars:

April	PARCC
May	The Rhode Island Growth Model
June	Assessment in Early Childhood Education

Webinars are held on the second Wednesday of the month from 9:30-10:30. You can access recorded webinars and register for upcoming webinars on the Comprehensive Assessment System webpage: www.ride.ri.gov/assessment/CAS.aspx.

RTTT Assessment Initiatives Updates

Building a comprehensive assessment system, a requirement under the Basic Education Program Regulations, will prepare LEAs for the RTTT assessment initiatives that will launch in the fall of 2012.

Formative Assessment *RIDE is developing a series of online professional development modules on the formative assessment process. These interactive, multi-modal modules will be accessed through the IMS. LEA funds can be used for replacement costs or stipends for Formative Assessment Facilitators to lead the work or for educators to complete the online course.*

January-March 2012 Recap

- Completed “Linking Learning & Assessment in RI” pilot with 6 schools from across the state
- Completed filming RI teachers implementing FA best practices at 2 out of 6 pilot schools
- Began technical build of modules for online course

April – June 2012 Preview

- On April 12th, Nancy Gerzon will present to Assistant Superintendents and Curriculum Directors on the pilot, the formative assessment process, and the PD modules.
- Filming of RI teachers implementing FA best practices will continue at pilot schools
- We will begin the development of facilitation guides to complement online modules

Interim: *The interim assessments are online assessments for grades 3-11 in Math and ELA. The suite of assessments will eventually include an item bank and test building engine for Math, ELA, Science, and Social Studies. The first set of assessments—the fixed form tests—are slated to roll*

January-March 2012 Recap

- Facilitated content and technology development for fixed form ELA and math assessments
- Revised assessment design for fixed form tests—both ELA and math will only assess progress. This change will help provide more useful and targeted feedback from the assessment results.
- Began drafting plan for item review process; educators in ELA and math are encouraged to participate. Reviews will happen in May and August (stipend provided). Contact Jessica Brown (jessica.brown@ride.ri.gov) if you are interested in participating in either or both reviews.

April – June 2012 Preview

- Will continue to provide the field with updates on the design and development of the fixed form assessments.
- Will hold first item review committee meeting and will begin finalization process of items for fixed form assessments.
- Will finalize scope of the test construction tool, including what features will be available for the January 2013 release.

Data Use Professional Development: *The Data Use PD is currently in development and will launch in August of 2012. This professional development will be targeted towards school leadership teams and focus on the use of data to inform decision-making.*

January - March 2012 Recap

- RIDE and Wireless Generation, the vendor for the Data Use PD series, finalized a contract and began work.
- We issued a needs assessment to LEA stakeholders and principals to assess the current needs of schools and districts as they relate to data driven instruction and collaborative structures.
- LEA stakeholders and principals were invited to attend focus groups dedicated to gathering critical feedback from the field to help further develop and tailor the content of the trainings for Rhode Island educators.
- RIDE published the Data Use Professional Development website, available through the Comprehensive Assessment System web page. The website provides educators with access to data use information and materials.
- RIDE dedicated the month of March to disseminating information about the Data Use Professional Development series on Facebook.

April – June 2012 Preview

- RIDE and Wireless Generation will develop the content of the Data Use Professional Development series based on the vendor’s proven framework (Taking Action With Data), feedback from the field, and the results of the needs assessment.
- School Leadership Teams (SLTs) receiving training in the 2012-2013 school year will be asked to commit to a schedule of training. RIDE and Wireless Generation will work with districts to locate appropriate training space for the cohorts of SLTs.
- Based on the results of the needs assessments, School Leadership Teams will be placed in differentiated tiers of training to ensure that the data coaches meet each SLT at its current level of data use.
- We will provide guidance to districts and schools regarding the formation of an effective School Leadership Team.

CAS Feedback Survey

Our goal is to create resources and tools that are relevant, clear, and useful. Please take a moment to fill out our short survey about your use of the Comprehensive Assessment System Criteria & Guidance, the tools in the appendices, and the CAS webpage: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CompAssessment>.



Rhode Island's Transition to the Common Core

GET READY!

Rhode Island's Transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
and the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)

Update for January - March 2012

CCSS Implementation Resources Developed

For Central Office and Building Administrators:

RIDE has posted additional resources to assist LEAs in implementation of the CCSS as LEAs develop their multi-year CCSS/PARCC transition plans:

- Updated [Timeline for the Transition to CCSS and PARCC](#)
Illustrates how the major Race to the Top projects support each other and the Transition to the CCSS and PARCC; outlines RIDE and LEA responsibilities for each project area for school years 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15
- [Curriculum Resource Review Aids](#)
The *Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Mathematics Curriculum Materials Analysis Project* has designed a collection of tools to enable educators to evaluate the quality of mathematics curriculum resources with respect to the CCSS and also considering the equity, formative assessment options, and technological assets of a resource.

For Educators:

RIDE developed and posted several new resources for educators to learn more about the CCSS and aid in the transition:

- ***“After Study of the Common Core State Standards” Workshop Supports***
Resources to help educators continue the conversation about the CCSS beyond the “Study of the Standards” workshop. Each tool addressed within the workshop will be supported. These resources are adapted from *A Study of the Common Core State Standards* developed by The Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas at Austin for the Rhode Island Department of Education, Spring 2011.
 - [Design and Organization of the CCSS](#)
 - [Instructional Alignment Chart](#)
- **For ELA/Literacy Educators:**
 - [Critical Areas of Focus for ELA](#)
 - [Text Dependent Questions](#)
 - [Close Analytic Reading Guide and Exemplars](#)
 - **Lexile Support Tools** for Text Complexity Analysis
 - [Lexile Analyzer](#)
 - [Find a Book](#) (based upon Lexile measure)

- **For Mathematics Educators:**
 - [Critical Areas of Focus for Mathematics](#)
 - [Conversation with Colleagues after “Cracking the Code”](#)
A professional development module intended to grow capacity for the understanding of the “structure” of the CCSS (mathematics).
 - [Distribution of the Domains Across the Mathematics CCSS](#)
- **Resources for Diverse Learners** section added to the [Common Core Materials web site](#).

Study of the Common Core State Standards

The *Study of the Common Core State Standards* sessions continue to be conducted across the state. In this quarter, we have had 15 sessions of *Study of the Standards- Math* and 11 sessions of *Study the Standards- English Language Arts*. The audiences were from LEAs across the state, including charters, and representatives from higher education. Over 900 educators received training this quarter. We are extremely excited to announce that we have exceeded our goal of 4000 educators! Over 4300 educators have attended a Study of the Standards Session.

Open sessions were held on January 10th (ELA) and January 12th (Math) for all LEAs, higher education professional, and other interested parties. Participants were from all over Rhode Island, and included all grade levels. In attendance were educators from LEAs and higher education. Both sessions benefited from such a diverse and dedicated group of attendees.

RIDE now has a web site dedicated to the *Study of the Common Core State Standards*. For more information, please visit: www.ride.ri.gov/Division-EEIE/Curriculum/StudytheStandards.aspx.

Curriculum Development

East Providence and Pawtucket teachers have attended three full sessions of curriculum writing. The teacher teams have started to produce Units of Study that are aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts to be shared with the staff of both districts. These Units of Study will become the base for standards- study in the cooperating districts as well as the next step towards instruction. Nine Southern Rhode Island school districts (Charlton, Exeter-West Greenwich, East Greenwich, Jamestown, Narragansett, New Shoreham, North Kingstown, South Kingstown, and Westerly) have also started Units of Study writing work. These documents will be made available for all teachers in the nine districts according to their individual curriculum implementation plans next school year.

RIDE now has a web site with information about the projects and the cohorts: www.ride.ri.gov/Division-EEIE/Curriculum/default.aspx.

Common Core Implementation and Educator Engagement Grants

RIDE was pleased to announce a mini-grant for Common Core State Standards implementation. RIDE provided grants to several districts and groups of districts money to aid in the implementation and study of the Common Core State Standards. The work will further the LEA’s strategic plan for Common Core State Standards implementation. Grant awards were announced on March 9 to the following LEAs: Burrillville,

Chariho, Coventry, Exeter-West Greenwich, Narragansett, Jamestown, North Kingstown, South Kingstown, East Providence, Glocester, Bristol-Warren, Tiverton, North Providence, Smithfield, Foster-Glocester, Middletown, Lincoln, Cumberland, Woonsocket, and Westerly.

Civics GSEs and Common Core State Standards Educator Engagement Grants

On March 23, RIDE announced a grant opportunity for educators to deeply engage with the Civics GSEs and the Common Core State Standards and to creatively think of ways to implement these standards in their classrooms. RIDE is looking for new and innovative ideas for implementation of the Common Core and the Civics GSEs in elementary, civics, history, social studies, or government classrooms through curriculum resources, content-knowledge development, or other innovative, high-quality projects.

Project teams will consist of teachers and other educators working collaboratively, and the teams may include a higher-education or community-organization partner. The total grant pool is \$9,000, with an anticipated maximum of 9 grants awarded. Educators from all grade levels are encouraged to apply.

The application deadline is **April 9**, with award announcements to be made by April 13. Application information can be found at: www.ride.ri.gov/Instruction/civics.aspx.

David Coleman Engages Rhode Island Educators

On February 29, David Coleman traveled to RI to discuss the Common Core State Standards with RI policymakers, leaders, and educators.

- [Talking Points About the CCSS](#) – A Brief Summary of David Coleman’s Presentations
- [Key Instructional Shifts to the Common Core State Standards](#)
- [Major Work and Key Fluencies for Mathematics](#)

CCSS Resources for Educators Handout

RIDE created a resource handout for David Coleman’s presentations that features active links to our Common Core resources. We encourage local education agencies, formal and informal educational organizations, and professional associations to disseminate the handout and spread the word about available resources for the CCSS and PARCC. The double-sided handout can be e-mailed to your educators, or printed as handouts. It is available at the following link:

www.ride.ri.gov/Instruction/DOCS/CommonCore/DColeman-Feb29_Resources.pdf.

PARCC Technology Readiness Tool

PARCC and SBAC have contracted with Pearson to develop a Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) to support states as they plan the transition to next-generation assessments that will be launched beginning in the 2014-15 school year. Through a combination of detected and submitted data, this new open-source tool will help schools evaluate their current capacity and compare it with the technology that will be needed to administer new online assessments. The TRT focuses on four areas of capacity: devices, device-to-tester ratio, network infrastructure, and personnel. We hope that the TRT represents a valuable opportunity for

your schools to gather useful information about technology readiness that can inform your planning and decision-making around the new assessments. The TRT will collect data during two windows each year (spring and fall) through 2014.

In support of this effort, Michael Ferry, the RIDE Knowledge Officer, has been named as State Readiness Coordinator (SRC). He will serve as a point of contact for LEAs, and he will coordinate with local and state teams working on assessments and technology. An FAQ document has been posted, at:

http://www.techreadiness.org/f/Frequently_Asked_Questions_03092012.pdf.

PARCC has released a document with concerns relative to the use of iPads for testing. Although it is early in the process and these issues may be eliminated, LEAs should consider these concerns when making device purchases. Follow this link to view the document:

http://www.ride.ri.gov/DataWorks/documents/PARCC_iPad_concerns.doc

PARCC Progress Updates

PARCC Releases ITN to Engage Educators

On February 3, 2012, PARCC released the Educator Leader Cadre, Meeting Logistics and Meeting Content Services Invitation to Negotiate (ITN). The Educator Leader Cadres (ELCs) are a major part of PARCC's ongoing work to engage educators in the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the development and implementation of the PARCC assessments. The ITN, as well as a summary and FAQs, can be found at <http://www.parcconline.org/Procurement>.

PARCC Releases ITN for Item Development

On December 30, 2011, PARCC released an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) to select contractor(s) for the development of items, tasks and related assessment materials for PARCC's mid-year, performance-based, and end-of-year assessments components in ELA/literacy and mathematics. This procurement will generate a large bank of materials to support the development of the PARCC assessments that will be administered in all member states in 2014-15. More information can be found at <http://www.parcconline.org/Procurement>.

Looking Ahead to April - June 2012

CCSS Implementation Resources Planned

The CCSS Implementation Resources that are in development reflect feedback from the field on where needs currently exist in implementation processes. If you have a suggestion for a helpful resource or know of a specific need, email: RI.CommonCore@ride.ri.gov.

Coming Soon:

- ***“After Study of the Common Core State Standards” Workshop Supports***
Additional modules will support the two remaining tools presented within the Study of the Standards workshop: Learning Trajectories and the Instructional Alignment Chart.
- **PARCC Model Framework Resource for Mathematics and ELA/Literacy**
- **Writing an Argument Module**

- **Text Dependent Question Module: Parts 3 & 4**
- **Science Educators: Text Dependent Questions**
- **Additional Information and Guidance** on the Technology Transition for PARCC.

Study of the Common Core State Standards

Sessions will continue for districts as we look toward the completion of district sessions. For April through June, six ELA and six Math sessions are scheduled. RIDE will solicit feedback from districts to determine if additional Open sessions are necessary. RIDE looks forward to supporting districts in the next phase of CCSS study and learning.

Curriculum Writing

Curriculum writing will continue for the ELA and Math cohorts on Units of Study to be completed by June. The Units of Study are to be implemented by their respective districts for the upcoming school year, according to individual district decisions. Leadership work will focus on implementation and planning for the upcoming school year. District leaders will be asked to examine their existing school and district structures for the support of curriculum implementation.

PARCC Technology Readiness Tool – First Data Collection Window

The PARCC Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) will collect data during two windows each year (spring and fall) through 2014. The first of six data-collection windows will be April 2 to June 8. A wiki and other communication tools used during the collection are available on the Rhode Island group's page at Assess4Ed.net, an online community operated by the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) to support technology leaders in this transition.

The goal of the first window is to collect baseline data, including the number and specifications of devices currently in schools. Evaluating technology readiness will be an iterative process, and as more information is known about the PARCC technology architecture and minimum requirements, the hardware specifications will be updated in the TRT for use in future data-collection windows.

PARCC Model Content Frameworks Feedback

In the spring of 2012, PARCC will again solicit feedback on the **Model Content Frameworks**, and a refined version will be issued that incorporates feedback as needed. In this way, the Model Content Frameworks can evolve to reflect the experiences of educators and students. For more information or to view the frameworks and to listen to webinar discussions of the frameworks, visit <http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-content-frameworks>.